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Courtney Smith, Eden Solinsky, Devin Stephens, Cory Stephens, Emilee Stewart, Teagan Suire, Dustin Thompson, Tito Torres, Jossie Willis.●

#### HONORING HOWE AND HOWE TECHNOLOGIES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, this week is National Small Business Week, a time when our country focuses on the immense efforts our 27 million small businesses make to the health and vitality of our Nation's economy. As we are presently engaged in two wars, innovative companies that produce cutting-edge defense products are critical to our Nation's military success. In that vein, I rise to recognize the colossal efforts of one such small business from my home State of Maine, Howe and Howe Technologies.

Located in the southern Maine town of Eliot, Howe and Howe Technologies focuses on the design and production of extreme vehicles, specifically tanks. And for brothers Mike and Geoffrey Howe, the company's owners, building tanks has been a passion for over a decade. After high school, they began work on the original Ripsaw 1, their first unmanned vehicle, in the garage of their childhood home. By 2004, they were entering their vehicle in an endurance test for unmanned vehicles that was sponsored by the military. While they did not win that trial, the brothers received a boost of confidence that their products could compete in the long run, leading to the establishment of Howe and Howe Technologies in 2006.

Each of the company's tanks is designed with a particular use in mind. For instance, the Subterranean Rover 1, or SR1, was commissioned by the Shoal Creek Mine in Alabama to specifically withstand the harsh conditions of coal mines. The PAV1, or Badger, was built for the California Protection Services for use by SWAT teams and other law enforcement agencies. And the Ripsaw MS1, which is currently being tested by the U.S. Army, is an unmanned ground vehicle, or UGV, designed especially for military use. Howe and Howe's vehicles are critical to our military's mission, as they are unmanned vehicles that can be placed in dangerous situations without harm to personnel. Additionally, the vehicles can operate for almost 300 miles until refueling, can be controlled remotely, and provide the military with a faster alternative to the unmanned vehicles they presently have.

The Howe brothers take pride in their work, and industry experts are certainly taking notice. The Ripsaw

MS1, which is Howe and Howe's latest vehicle, was just selected by Popular Science magazine as "The Fastest Tank" in the listing of its 2009 Invention Awards. The magazine publishes these awards annually to highlight a diverse array of creative and innovative products America's businesses are manufacturing, from power shock absorbers to IV catheters. Additionally, Howe and Howe has recently learned that its PAV1 Badger will be acknowledged as the "World's Smallest Tank" in the "2010 Guinness Book of World Records."

Last Saturday was Armed Forces Day, a day to reflect on the significant sacrifices our men and women in uniform have made on behalf of our Nation's security. Let us also pay homage to those civilians who assist them by creating state-of-the-art products that make their missions safer and stronger, and that ultimately save lives. I congratulate Mike and Geoffrey Howe and everyone at Howe and Howe Technologies for their exceptional work ethic and inventive products, and wish them continued success.●

#### REMEMBERING SERGEANT AUBIE L. ATKINS, JR.

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor and recognize SGT Aubie L. Atkins, Jr., for making the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Nearly 67 years after his death in WWII, he will be home for good and laid to rest next to his parents in their Claiborne Parish town of Athens. I would like to take a few moments to speak of his courage and heroism.

Atkins grew up in Athens, LA, and attended Louisiana Tech University for 1 year before enlisting in the Army in 1941. He was trained in communications and assigned to the crew of a B-25 Mitchell bomber in the 405th Bombardment Squadron in the southwestern Pacific. Atkins, along with seven other crew members, took off aboard a bomber nicknamed "The Happy Legend" from Port Moresby on a mission to bomb Buna on December 5, 1942. Unfortunately, their plane went down and disappeared near the Kokoda Pass, Papua New Guinea. Military authorities believed the plane was shot down by the Japanese during a bombing run. The crew was declared dead, and all were memorialized on the tablets of the missing at Manila American Cemetery, Philippines, by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Members of the 1st Australian Corps found the crash in February 1943 along with the pilot's remains and Atkins' identification tags, but because enemy troops remained in the vicinity, the allied soldiers had to abandon the site. Several attempts were launched to retrieve wreckage and the airmen's remains, but the wreckage was in a water-filled crater making it too difficult and dangerous. But, in 2005 Atkins' remains were identified using DNA that was donated in 2007 by his

last surviving sibling, just months before her own death.

There is no doubt that December 5, 1942, was a tragic day, not only for the families of the fallen crew members but also for the B-25 family, the community, and the Nation. On Saturday, May 16, Sergeant Atkins was properly buried with full military honors, including a jet flyover and a 21-gun salute. Although all of Atkins' seven siblings are deceased, three subsequent generations were present to honor and pay their respects.

Thus, today, I honor the memory of fellow Louisianan Aubrey Atkins, Jr., and thank him for his devotion and service to our country.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the presiding officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13303 OF MAY 22, 2003, WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ—PM 20

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication. This notice states that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, and Executive Order 13438 of July 17, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2009.